Clay Shaw's death HW 9/15/74 CONFIDENTIAL

On the plane to see Wolfson 9/13 I sat next to a man, accompanied by his wife, while I worked on various papers I had with me. He noticed them, began a conversation, and there was an interesting upshot.

He is the medical administrator of Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans. He was returning from a golf match he had won. He began by saying that Shaw had died. I told him I was aware of this and wondered about the early reports that there was an element of mystery contributed to by public statements by the coroner. He gave me this story, credible.

For a year Shaw had known he had cancer. He had been to Ochsner. For the past six months his condition has been so bad that a medical student lived with him. The cause of death was so apparent there was no need for an autopsy.

The story of the ambulance pulling up the day before came from a woman who made an anonymous phone call. Investigation has not located her. There is no confirmation of which he is aware for her story. (It is apparent that under normal conditions every run of every ambulance is accounted for. Records can be faked or altered, especially with private ambulances, but I see no reason for any of this.)

His answer when I asked about the coroner's public statement is that the coroner is now satisfied and that if he were not he has full authority to order the body disinterred and perform an autopsy.

Seems apparent.

The reason I want no distribution of this is what follows.

He told me that about six months ago the cancer affected Shaw's brain, perhaps mind. I told him that Ruby had such a cancer. He was aware of it. He says he is the man Garrison phoned to ask about the fictitious reports that Ruby had been to Ochsner earlier and a cancer had there been discovered. He says these reports are false and I have no reason to doubt him.

But my fear is what the nuts would do about Ruby and Shaw having the same consequences of cancer.

The Shaw case is over. But they'll make up some kind of yarn for some imagined need to kill him while making his death seem natural.

I neglected to ask his name. I did ask him to speak to Panzeca (he knows one of the Wegmanns) to ask Sal if I can have a copy of the official records of Shaw's death, perhaps illness, under any kind of restriction he may want to impose simply as a matter of record in my files for the future.

I explained the nut stuff to him and asked him to repeat it to Sal and to explain that I would prefer, if the need comes, to be able to address it.